(a) whether it is a fact that the Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) has recently struck a major off-shore oil field near the Bassein gasfield off Mumbai;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken to integrate a number of recent small discoveries with the existing major facilities to make them commercially viable?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR) : (a) and (b) Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Limited (ONGC) has recently found oil and gas leads in B-22 structure located about 15 kilometers west of Bassein field in Mumbai offshore.

(c) Exploration is a continuous process and the leads thus obtained from various discoveries are pursued to consolidate and integrate them with existing assets and produce hydrocarbons in a commercially viable manner.

Mixing of Naphtha with Petrol

†4738. DR. PRABHA THAKUR : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to refer to answer to Unstarred Question 1319 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 4th March, 2003 and state :

(a) whether there is a ban on the mixing of Naphtha with Petrol in many places in other countries; and

(b) if so, the basis on which permission for mixing has been given by Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR): (a) Government is not aware of any ban on the mixing of Naphtha with Petrol in other countries.

(b) No permission has been given by Government for mixing of Naphtha with petrol.

Supply of Gas by British Petroleum

4739. SHRIMATI BIMBA RAIKAR : Will the MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the British Petroleum has offered supply of gas to India at affordable prices of $ 3.00 per mmbtu for power plants;

(b) if so, whether the British Petroleum will be sourcing its supplies from Iran; and

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi

(c) whether India has considered the offer inview of the on-going disputes between British Petroleum and ONGC/Reliance for operational control of Panna Mukta and Rawa fields?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

ONGC'S investment in oil recovery

4740. SHRI RUMANDLA RAAMACHANDRAYYA : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the exploration firm ONGC has decided to invest Rs. 12,000 crores in improving oil recovery from the existing fields in the next four to five years;

(b) if so, whether any concrete proposals of action plan has been initiated;

(c) if so, the details of the same;

(d) by when they are likely to be implemented; and

(e) the latest position of improving the exploration fields?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR): (a) to (c) Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Ltd. (ONGC) has launched a programme for Improved Oil Recovery (IOR) and Enhanced Oil Recovery (EOR) from the 15 major fields which account for 80% of ONGC's oil production, namely, Mumbai High, Heera, Neelam, Gandhar, Kalol, Sanand, North Kadi, Sobhasan, Santhal, Balol, Jotana, Lanwa, Lakwa, Geleki and Rudrasagar. The total estimated investment for the IOR/EOR programme in the 15 fields is Rs. 12,097 crores.

The above 15 fields have been projectized into 19 schemes for IOR/EOR programmes out of which 16 schemes approved by ONGC are at various stages of implementation. After completion of the reservoir and feasibility studies, the remining three projects will be taken up.

(d) The projects are slated for completion during the Tenth Plan Period (2002-2007).

(e) The Tenth Plan Period activities of ONGC envisage carrying out exploration in frontier onland and deepwater areas to establish new reserves as well as continuing exploration in its producing basins to establish field growth